

FLOATING LNG PROJECTS

460. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I understand this issue was referred to in the newspaper today, but I will crack on anyway. I refer to recent media reports that the Shell Australia and Inpex Corporation floating liquefied natural gas projects off the North West Shelf of WA are in the final stages of preparing for export.

- (1) Is the state government concerned about the diminished economic opportunities for Western Australian businesses and workers as a result of the adoption of floating LNG technology instead of onshore processing?
- (2) Is the state government concerned about the potential negative impacts of floating LNG developments on the supply of domestic gas for WA and on state revenue?
- (3) Does the state government concede that overall such floating LNG projects provide little benefit to Western Australia?
- (4) What is the state government doing to ensure that WA gets a better deal from offshore gas projects?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) As the member would be aware, the LNG projects in question fall under commonwealth jurisdiction. The Prelude project is the first and only floating LNG project in Australia. There are no other floating LNG projects in development.
- (2) Western Australia's longstanding domestic gas policy provides certainty over domestic gas commitments.
- (3)–(4) The Premier has stated repeatedly that he would like to see gas come onshore. This Premier is committed to jobs and economic benefits for all Western Australians, including those living in the Pilbara. The government is actively supporting proposals to bring Browse and Scarborough onshore. Rather than dwell on missed opportunities by the previous government, the Premier is doing all he can to ensure that Western Australia enjoys greater benefits from offshore gas reserves. This government's commitment to economic opportunities for Western Australians is demonstrated through initiatives such as the local jobs portal, launched recently in conjunction with Woodside. The local jobs portal ensures that all locally based jobs that Woodside has on offer will be available in the first instance to local people, with locals being given preference in filling these positions.